

Message Text

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SUBJ: PROFESSOR RICHARD B. MORRIS

USIA FOR IWE AND ICS: SECSTATE FOR CU/WE

1. RICHARD MORRIS EMERITUS PROFESSOR HISTORY COLUMBIA PROGRAMMED TWO DAYS IN ROME AND FLORENCE SUGGESTS DEPTH OF ANTI-AMERICAN STANCE OF ITALIAN UNIVERSITY INTELLECTUALS EVEN THOSE IN AMERICAN STUDIES. IN ROME EN ROUTE TO SALZBURG SAMINAR, MORRIS SPOKE FIRST TO GENERAL AUDIENCE AT ROME'S CENTER FOR AMERICAN STUDIES ON REALITIES OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION. QUESTIONS ABOUT CONTINUING REVOLUTION AND CONSTITUTIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF WATERGATE AND OTHER REFORM MOVES OPENED OPPORTUNITY TO PROJECT VIABILITY US SYSTEM. DINNER FOR 24 SPECIALISTS IN AMERICAN STUDIES FOLLOWED LECTURE.
 2. MORE IMPORTANT WAS FLORENCE SEMINAR ON MARCH 7 GATHERING 13 FULL AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS AND 35 YOUNGER ASSISTANTS FOR MEETING ON US REVOLUTIONARY TRADITION. THREE-HOUR SESSION PRODUCED UNUSUALLY SHARP QUESTIONING RELEAVING DEEP AND RIGIDIFIED ANT-AMERICAN BIAS. MORRIS' COMMAND OF HIS SUBJECT AND INCREDIBLE RANGE OF DETAILED KNOWLEDGE ALLOWED HIM TO HANDLE ALL QUESTIONS EASILY AND KEEP THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE. BUT HE PRIVATELY REVEALED ANNOYANCE AND SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT COMPETENCE OF ITALIAN SCHOLARSHIP IN AMERICAN HISTORY, ABOUT THEIR BASIC
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FRAME OF REFERENCE, AND ABOUT THEIR HONESTY. WARNED US THAT THE

SIZE OF USIS JOB IN ITALY WAS UNUSUALLY LARGE, ACCORDING TO HIS PERCEPTIONS, AND INHUMANLY COMPLEX. WE NOTE THAT THIS IS THE FIRST AMERICAN SPEAKER WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROGRAM IN FLORENCE'S INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN STUDIES SINCE THE VIETNAM DAYS.

3. ONE CLEAR MESSAGE COMES THROUGH: THE NEED FOR MORE SPEAKERS OR MORRIS' STATURE AND OVERARCHING EXPERIENCE, WHATEVER THE FIELD. FIRST, AN AUDIENCE CAN BE GATHERED WHICH WILL MAKE THE EFFORT TO WORK IN ENGLISH. MORE IMPORTANT, WE NEED SOPHISTICATED EXPERTS WHO CAN ENTER INTO DIFFICULT AND UNPLEASANT DIALOGUE WITH EXPERTS AND PSEUDO EXPERTS ON REAL ISSUES, WHERE UNDERCURRENTS OF REFINED MARXIST AND NEO-MARXIST THINKING ARE THE NORM. AMERSON

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